Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

Todd McFarlane & Image Comics presents...

CURSE OF THE SPAWN

Twist of Fate

Dedicated to the memory of William F. Ashe.

STORY ALAN McELROY

PENCILS DWAYNE TURNER

INKS DANNY MIKI
CHANCE WOLF

COPY EDITOR & LETTERING TOM ORZECHOWSKI

COLOR TODD BROEKER
MARK NICHOLAS

President of Entertainment Publishing & Licensing — Terry Fitzgerald

Executive Director for Image Comics — Larry Marder

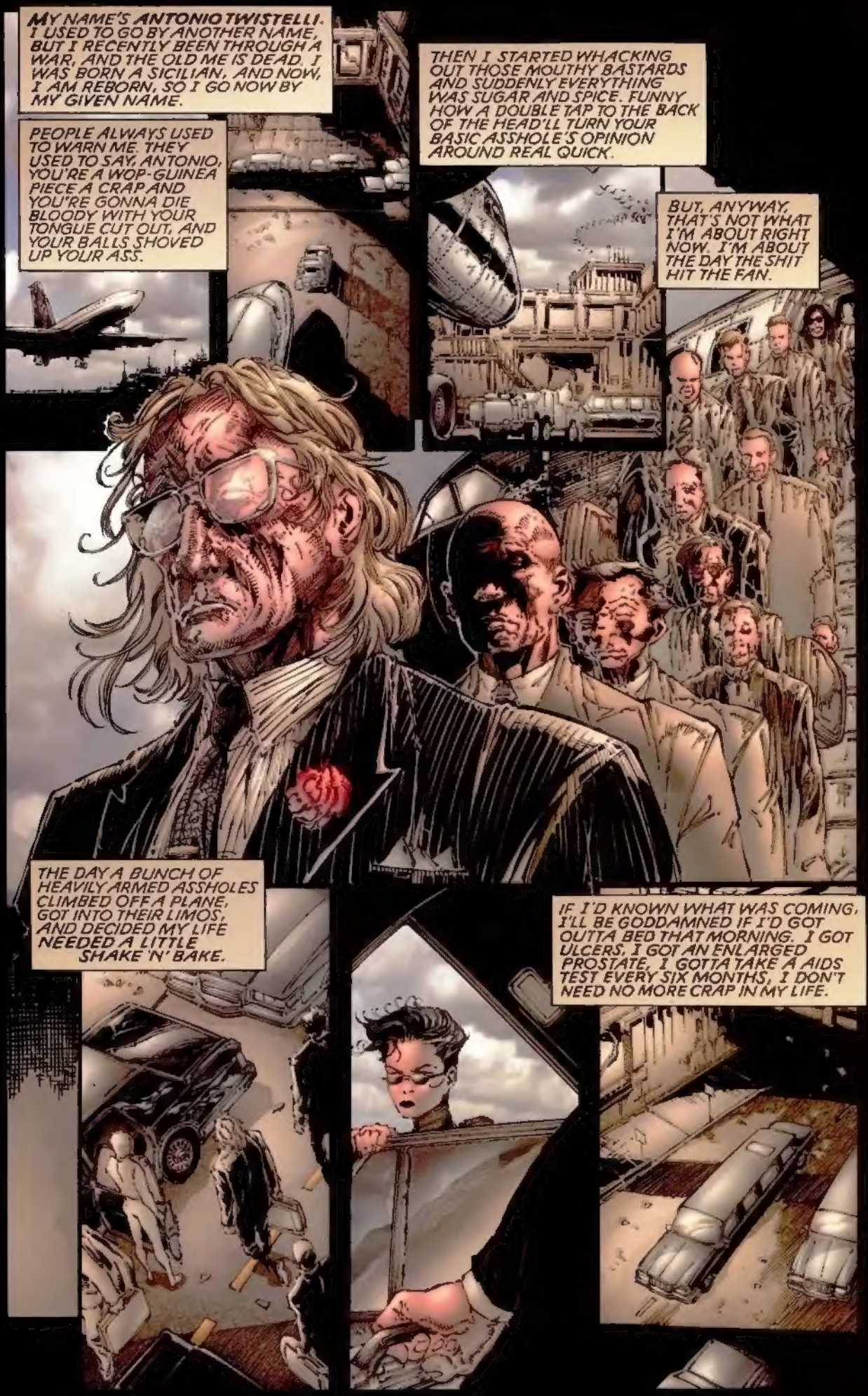
Art Director & Designer — Brent Ashe

Graphics Coordinator — Julia Simmons

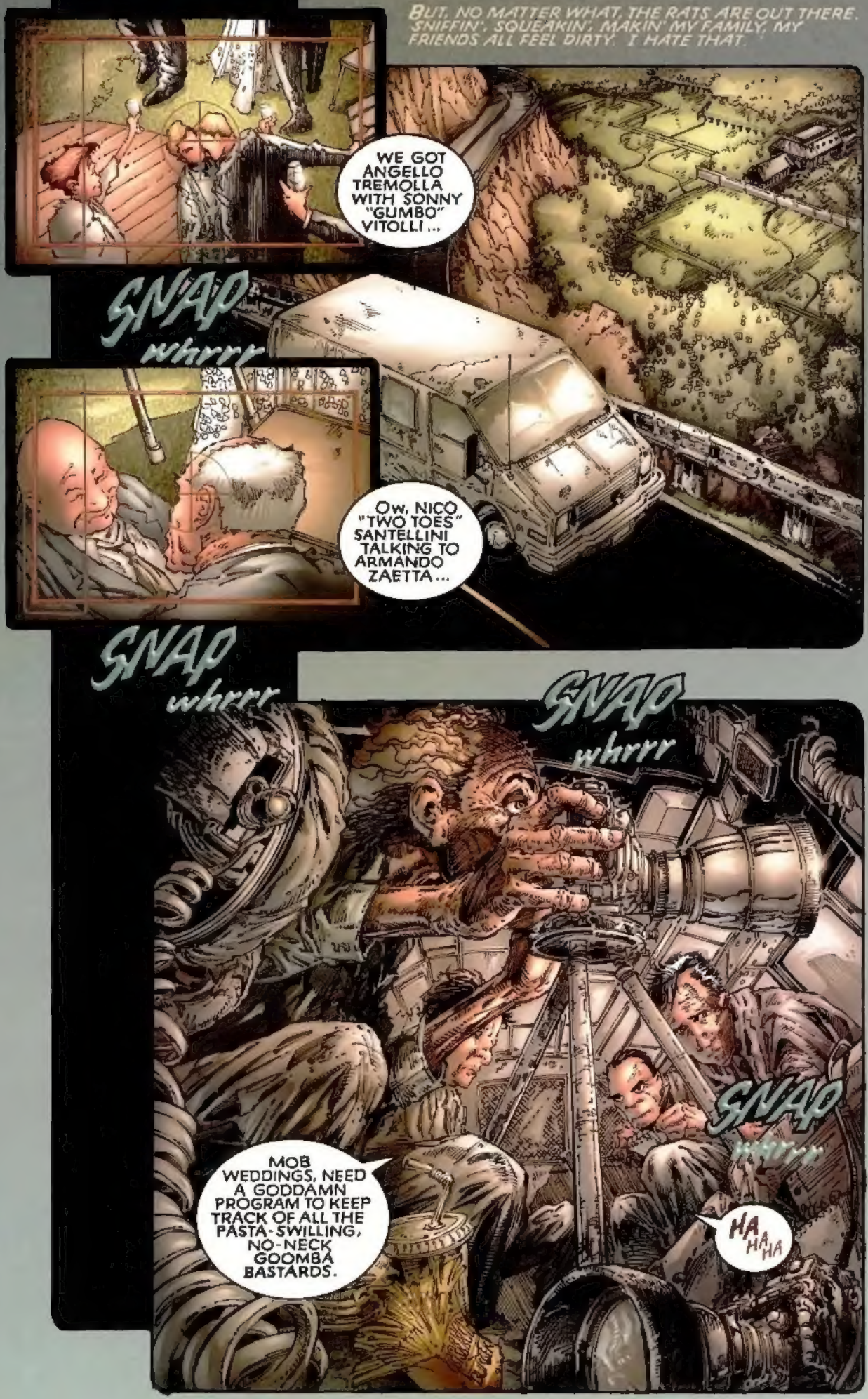
Editorial Coordinator — Melanie Simmons

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
www.spawn.com

CURSE OF THE SPAWN #17 February, 1998. First Printing. Published by IMAGE COMICS 1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92635. $1.95 US/$2.95 CAN. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks 1998 of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 1998 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane. PRINTED IN CANADA.

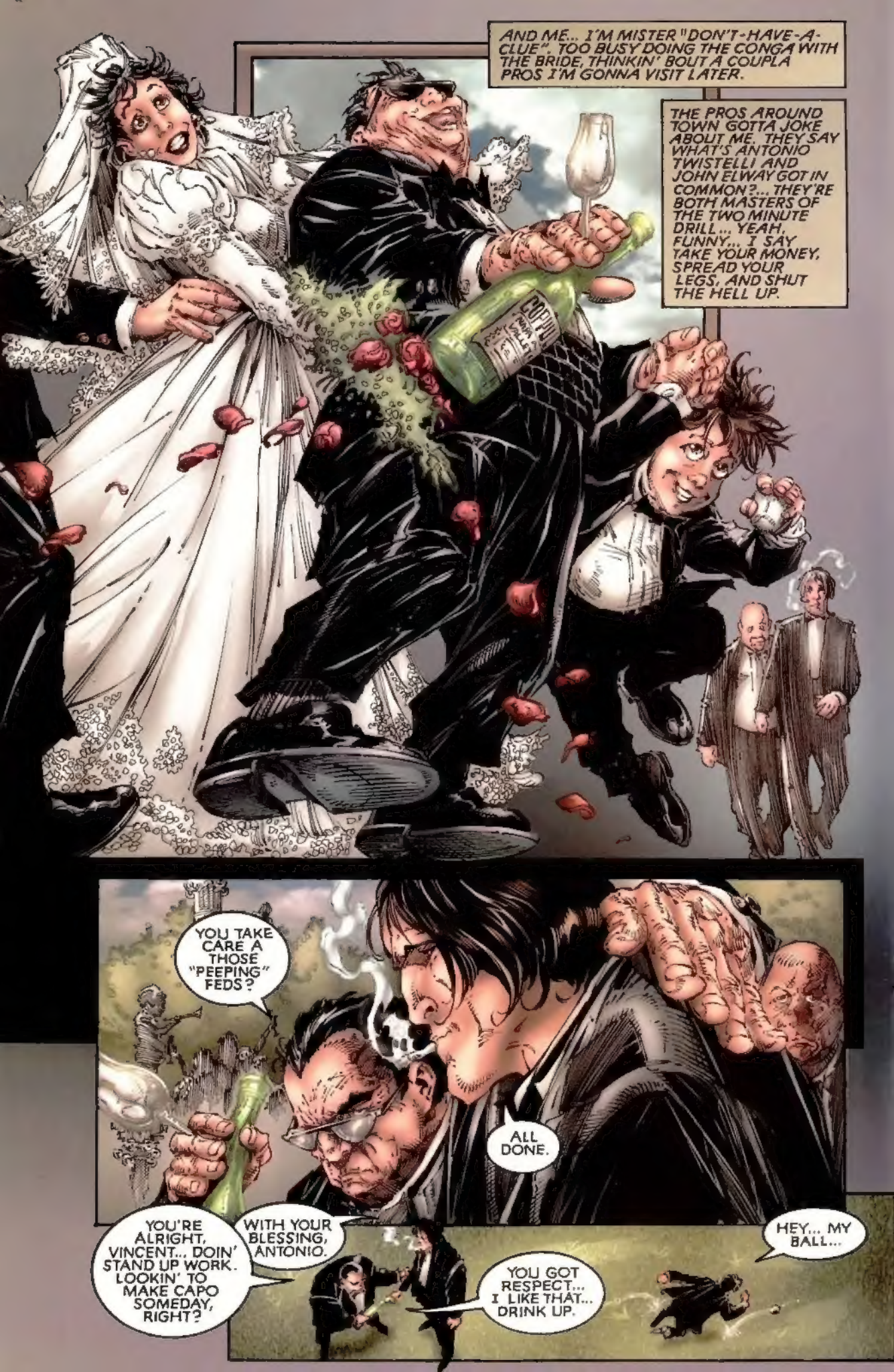

MY NAME'S ANTONIO TWISTELLI. I USED TO GO BY ANOTHER NAME, BUT I RECENTLY BEEN THROUGH A WAR, AND THE OLD ME IS DEAD. I WAS BORN A SICILIAN, AND NOW, I AM REBORN, SO I GO NOW BY MY GIVEN NAME.
PEOPLE ALWAYS USED TO WARN ME. THEY USED TO SAY, ANTONIO, YOU'RE A WOP-GUINEA PIECE A CRAP AND YOU'RE GONNA DIE BLOODY WITH YOUR TONGUE CUT OUT, AND YOUR BALLS SHOVED UP YOUR ASS.
THEN I STARTED WHACKING OUT THOSE MOUTHY BASTARDS AND SUDDENLY EVERYTHING WAS SUGAR AND SPICE. FUNNY HOW A DOUBLE TAP TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD'LL TURN YOUR BASIC ASSHOLE'S OPINION AROUND REAL QUICK.
BUT, ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ABOUT RIGHT NOW. I'M ABOUT THE DAY THE SHIT HIT THE FAN.
THE DAY A BUNCH OF HEAVILY ARMED ASSHOLES CLIMBED OFF A PLANE, GOT INTO THEIR LIMOS, AND DECIDED MY LIFE NEEDED A LITTLE SHAKE 'N' BAKE.
IF I'D KNOWN WHAT WAS COMING, I'LL BE GODDAMNED IF I'D GOT OUTTA BED THAT MORNING. I GOT ULCERS, I GOT AN ENLARGED PROSTATE, I GOTTA TAKE A AIDS TEST EVERY SIX MONTHS, I DON'T NEED NO MORE CRAP IN MY LIFE.

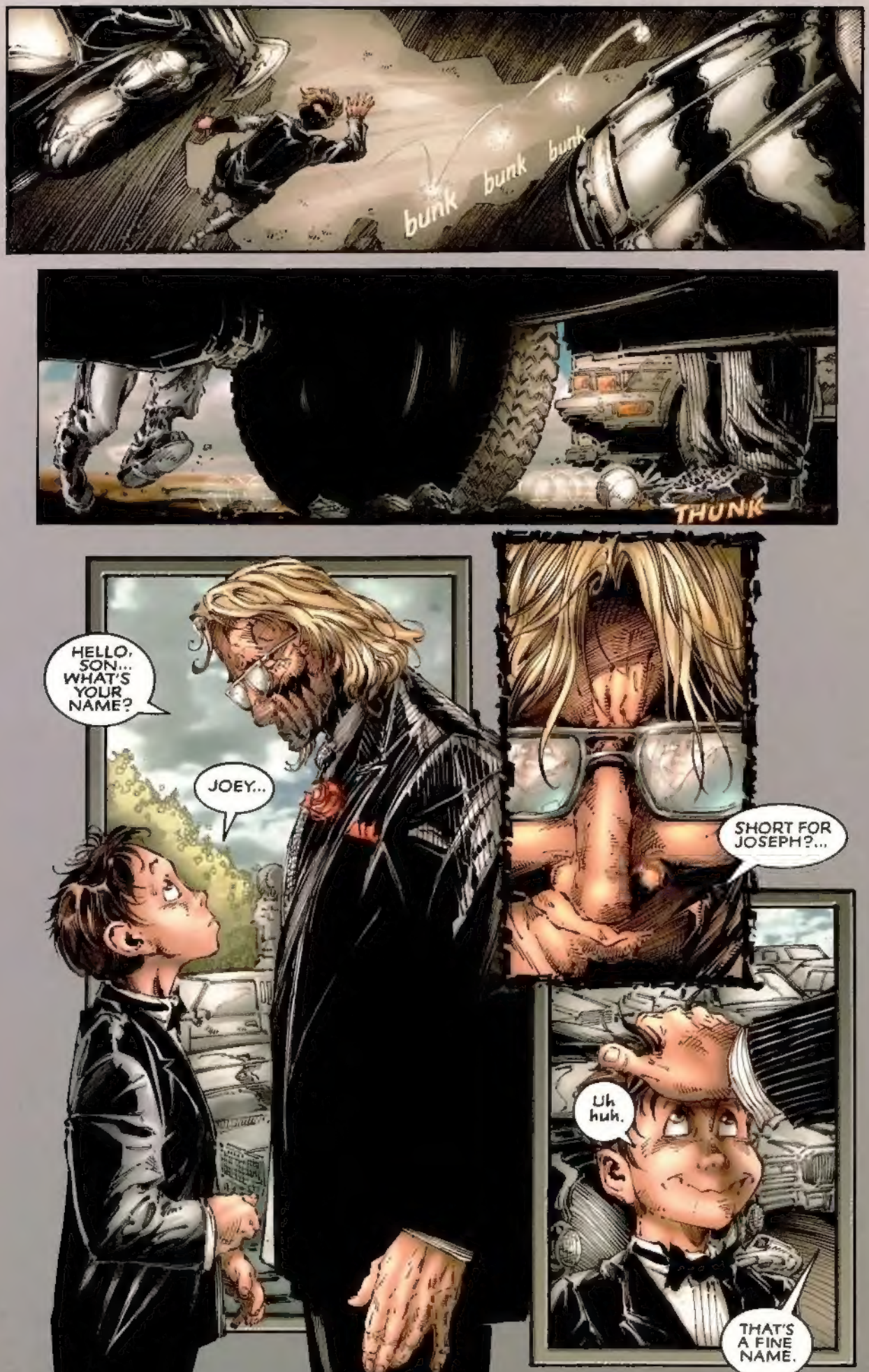
I LIKE HAPPY SHIT. YEAH, I'M A FRIGGIN' SOFTY FROM WAY BACK. I LOVE WEDDINGS, ESPECIALLY HERE ON LONG ISLAND. I PAY... EVERYBODY GETS TO DANCE, SMILE, MAKE NICE, YA KNOW?
PAULIE COZELLO, HIS NEW BRIDE LENNA. THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE. PAULIE I KNOWN SINCE WE'RE STEALING HUBCAPS.
TO THE LUCKIEST BASTARD MUTT I KNOW. HERE'S TO YA PAULIE, MAY SHE MAKE YOU FAT AND SLOW AND FILL YOUR LIFE WITH ANKLE-BITING RUG RATS. I LOVES YA!
TO PAULIE AND LENNA!
SEE? NICE. 'COURSE I GOTTA HAVE PRIVACY. I GOTTA BE PROTECTED. AND MY BOYS ARE GOOD. SECRET SERVICE, HAH!... BUNCH A PUSSIES.


BUT, NO MATTER WHAT, THE RATS ARE OUT THERE. SNIFFIN', SQUEAKIN', MAKIN' MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS ALL FEEL DIRTY. I HATE THAT.
WE GOT ANGELLO TREMOLLA WITH SONNY "GUMBO" VITOLLI...
SNAP whrrr
OW, NICO "TWO TOES" SANTELLINI TALKING TO ARMANDO ZAETTA...
SNAP whrrr
SNAP whrrr
SNAP whrrr
MOB WEDDINGS, NEED A GODDAMN PROGRAM TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE PASTA-SWILLING, NO-NECK GOOMBA BASTARDS.
HA HA HA

SOMETIMES, THE FEDS NEED A LITTLE REFRESHER COURSE IN RESPECT. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY THINK THEY CAN DO A LITTLE ILLEGAL SIGHT-SEEING.
NOW VINCENT D'EGALLO, THAT'S HIM ON THE LEFT, IS ONE A MY NUMBER ONE GUYS. GOT BALLS, GOT BRAINS, GOT STYLE.
REMINDS ME A WHEN I WAS A YOUNG TURK. THOUGHT I WAS FRIGGIN' IMMORTAL BACK THEN. STILL DO.
KRASH
CRUNCH!
YOU SONS OF BITCHES CAN'T DO THIS, WE'RE THE FBI, DAMMIT!
THEN YOU OUGHTTA HAVE MORE RESPECT. THE FAMILIES WANNA ENJOY THE RECEPTION IN PEACE. SO, YOU ASSHOLES CAN ENJOY YOU CAMERAS IN PIECES.
SEE WHAT I MEAN... STYLE.

YEAH, COULD A BEEN A REAL FINE DAY FOR ME AND MINE. BUT THEN IT STARTED HITTIN' THE FAN... AND I'LL BE GODDAMNED IF IT AIN'T STOPPED YET.
I LEARNED SOME STUFF LATER, LIKE ABOUT THIS ASSHOLE NEECE. REAL PIECE A WORK.
I LIKE THEM CHINK ACTION MOVIES, YA KNOW, WITH THE TWO GUNS AND BULLETS FLYIN' EVERY WHICH WAY... THIS GUY NEECE, HE'S SOMETHING OUTTA A JOHN WOO FRIGGIN' NIGHTMARE.
RANGE.
EIGHT HUNDRED YARDS.
THEM FEDS WERE PICKIN' UP PIECES OF THEIR CAMERAS ONE SECOND...
... AND SPILLIN' THEIR BRAINS THE NEXT.
AND THAT WAS JUST THE WARM-UP. NEECE AND FRIENDS GETTIN' LIMBER.


AND ME... I'M MISTER "DON'T-HAVE-A-CLUE". TOO BUSY DOING THE CONGA WITH THE BRIDE, THINKIN' BOUT A COUPLA PROS I'M GONNA VISIT LATER.
THE PROS AROUND TOWN GOTTA JOKE ABOUT ME. THEY SAY WHAT'S ANTONIO TWISTELLI AND JOHN ELWAY GOT IN COMMON?... THEY'RE BOTH MASTERS OF THE TWO MINUTE DRILL... YEAH, FUNNY... I SAY TAKE YOUR MONEY, SPREAD YOUR LEGS, AND SHUT THE HELL UP.
YOU TAKE CARE A THOSE "PEEPING" FEDS?
ALL DONE.
YOU'RE ALRIGHT, VINCENT... DOIN' STAND UP WORK. LOOKIN' TO MAKE CAPO SOMEDAY, RIGHT?
WITH YOUR BLESSING, ANTONIO.
YOU GOT RESPECT... I LIKE THAT... DRINK UP.
HEY... MY BALL...


bunk bunk bunk
THUNK
HELLO, SON... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
JOEY...
SHORT FOR JOSEPH?...
Uh huh.
THAT'S A FINE NAME.

KNOW WHAT I LOVE ABOUT WEDDINGS MOST?
THE CAKE. IT'S LIKE THE PROMISE, YA KNOW? BRIGHT, SWEET FUTURE FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM.
IT MAY NOT BE GOOD FOR YA, BUT DAMN IF IT DON'T MAKE YOU SMILE.
Sniff...
sob
HEY, CHEECHI, DONNY... GO SEE WHY LITTLE JOEY OVER THERE'S CRYING HIS EYES OUT.
WHAT'S A MATTER? YOU LOSE YOUR BALL, OR SOME-THIN'?
HE-- HE MADE ME...
HE MADE ME...
HOLY SHIT!
JOEY WAS A GOOD KID. HE WOULDA MADE A HELLUVA MAN.

KRAM
YA KNOW, I BEEN KNIFED, SHOT AT, BLOWN UP A TIME OR TWO. BUT THIS WAS DIFFERENT. .
THIS WAS SCARY.
LATER ON, WHEN IT STARTED TO GET REALLY UGLY, I'D KNOW WHY.
SEE, FEAR IS THIS GUT THING... IT COMES WHEN YOU FIGURE YOU GOT AN ENEMY. THE BIGGER THE ENEMY THE WORSE THE GUT THING GETS
HOTEL?
YES.
AND MY GUT WAS DOING CARTWHEELS RIGHT FROM THE GET

AHHH!
WE BEEN HIT! GODDAMMIT! WE BEEN HIT! WHO DID THIS?!! BASTARDS!!
VINCENT, I WANT WHOEVER DID THIS! I WANNA NAME! I WANNA FACE! I WANT THE SCUMBAG'S BALL-SACK ON MY DESK, YOU HEAR?!!
YOU MAKE HIM KNOW IT!
HEAR ME? MOVE!
I'M ON IT, BOSS.
THERE'S A FRIGGIN' DEAD MAN OUT THERE RIGHT NOW. HE JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET!
LENNA... DEAD... PAULIE... BOTH ARMS AND ONE LEG... GONE... MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD...
SOME-BODY'S GONNA PAY.

SOON AS YOU START TAKING HITS, YOU GOTTA CHECK ALL YOUR BUSINESSES. GIANGALLO OLIVE OIL WAS A LEGIT FRONT. OUTTA THE WAREHOUSE I DID ALL MY LAUNDRY. IF YA KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING.
OLIVE OIL
OLIVE OIL
ANTONIO, RELAX, WE'RE ALL QUIET HERE.
NOTHING 'CEPT SOME LIMO WITH A DAMN FOXY DRIVER.
MUST BE DONALD TRUMP'S COUSIN GETTING OUT IN FIVE GRAND WORTH OF HAND SEWN--
Oh-- GODDAMN...
RENO?! WHAT IS IT?!!

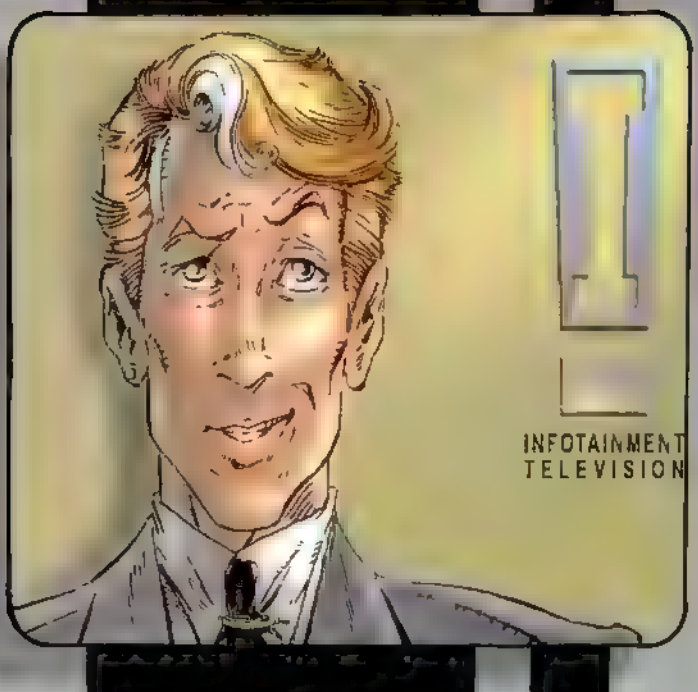
MR. WELL-HEELE'S NAME'S KEENE. BAD NEWS. THE MONSTER IN HIS HANDS IS A BD/450 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN BIG SON OF A BITCH. REAL HARD TO GET. MILITARY ISSUE. HEAVY COIN
BUT, PRETTY DAMN HANDY WHEN YOU WANNA BRING DOWN A BUILDING.
NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE ONE OF MINE
BAM

RENO, DAMMIT, WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE!?!
CRUNCH!
EVER SEE SOME POOR BASTARD START SWEATIN'... GETTIN' DESPER-ATE. . SCARED...
THAT KINDA CRAP USED TO MAKE ME LAUGH SOME POOR BLUBBERING SLOB READY TO FILL HIS FRUIT A THE LOOMS
NOW THAT POOR SCARED BASTARD WAS ME.

LINTELLO'S RESTAURANT WAS ONE A MY TOP BOOK-MAKING ESTABLISHMENTS. AND THE BEST CANOLLIS IN THE CITY.
I LET IT RING A LONG TIME... BUT I KNEW ALREADY... IT WAS BAD. . AND GETTIN' WORSE BY THE DAMN MINUTE.
THIS ONE'S NAME IS DOC... AND HE'S ABOUT AS SERIOUS AS A HEART ATTACK DURING A FRIGGIN' PLANE CRASH.
I WAS IN TROUBLE... I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH... WISH I'D NEVER FOUND OUT...
SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO KNOW... AND SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO EAT YOUR GUN... BUT I CAN'T DO THAT SEEING AS I WAS AN ALTAR BOY.

...AND, ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE, EXPLOSIONS DESTROYED TWO MORE WAREHOUSES, KILLING SIXTEEN PEOPLE. BOTH LOCATIONS WERE SUSPECTED LOCATIONS FOR THE STOCKPILING OF CONTRABAND, ALLEGEDLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF REPUTED MOB BOSS ANTONIO TWISTELLI. FBI SOURCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM IF, IN FACT, A MOB WAR IS IN PROGRESS, BUT INDIVIDUALS INSIDE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ARE SAID TO BE SCRAMBLING TO PUT TOGETHER AN ENEMIES LIST ON THE GANGLAND BOSS. WHEN ASKED FOR A STATEMENT, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RESPONDED, QUOTE, "THE NEW YORK UNDERWORLD IS IN AN UPROAR." UNQUOTE

SO THE LOWER EAST SIDE REAL ESTATE BOOM HAS GONE ***BUST***... OR MAYBE ***KA-BOOM*** IS MORE TO THE POINT. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS NEVER BEEN NEAR THE PLACE, SO THANK GOODNESS WE HAVE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO TELL US THAT IT'S THE ***MOBS***. THEY'RE IN, AND I QUOTE, "AN UPROAR". ***MOBS?!*** LET ME TELL YOU, FOLKS ***MY*** BEST INFORMATION IS THAT THOSE WAREHOUSES WERE ACTUALLY PR VATELY FINANCED ***RECEIVING STATIONS,*** TUNED TO TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE CURRENT ***MARS*** FLY-OVER. THE CULPRIT IS ***NASA,*** MY FRIENDS, DOING ALL THAT'S NECESSARY TO KEEP US FROM LEARNING THE ***TRUTH*** ABOUT THE ***FACE ON MARS***. ARE WE REALLY EXPECTED TO BELIEVE THAT MOBSTERS WOULD DRAW SO MUCH ATTENTION TO THEIR ***OWN TURF?*** GET ***REAL,*** GUYS!



WE WERE ***SHOCKED*** AT THE MEAGER TURNOUT FOR THE SHOWING OF BENI OKADO'S FALL LINE. ANYONE WHO'S ANYONE KNOWS THAT HER A-LINE SKIRTS ARE ***ALL*** THE RAGE AMONG THE MAFIA WIVES AND MISTRESSES, NOT TO MENTION THE WOMEN OF THE NIGHT FREQUENTED BY A CERTAIN MOB BOSS WITH A TASTE FOR THAT SORT OF THING NOW, BECAUSE THE FRIENDS, EMPLOYEES, AND LOOSE ACQUAINTANCES OF THIS CERTAIN UNDERWORLD FIGURE ARE TURNING UP WITHOUT THEIR MAJOR ORGANS IN THE PLACES GOD ***INTENDED,*** THEY'RE AFRAID TO COME OUT AND FLAUNT THEIR NEW COSMETIC SURGERIES. AND, WHILE THERE WERE MANY MOVIE NOTABLES ON VIEW, WE DID NOT SEE ANYONE FROM THE CAST OF EITHER "GOODFELLAS" OR "DONNIE BRASCO". ***OUR*** VERDICT? NICE SHOW, BENI... BUT NOTHING THERE TO DIE FOR

GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE! ALL OF YOU! OUT!
FINGER, YOU GOTTA HELP ME. WHO'S AFTER ME? WHO WANTS ME THIS BAD, huh? YOU GOTTA KNOW SOME THING!
I'M SORRY, ANTONIO .. I DON'T KNOW WHO'S AFTER YOUR OPERATION AND FRANKLY, I DON'T WANNA KNOW.
PLEASE, WE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE P.S 51... WE WERE BROTHERS-IN LAW FOR ALMOST SIX MONTHS!
SORRY, I MUST WATCH OUT FOR MY OWN INTERESTS.
SLICK

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

SONOVABITCH!
WHAT IS IT, VINCENT?
THE CELL PHONE CLONING OPERATION AT MIDTOWN JUST GOT HIT. SOMEBODY STAKED ALL OUR PEOPLE TO THE WALLS IN A NEARBY ALLEY SPILLED THEIR GUTS ALL OVER THE GROUND FOR THE RATS.
I'M THROUGH EATIN' THIS CRAP. TIME I CALLED IN SOME FAVORS
beep beep beep
YEAH, IT'S ME.. I NEED A MEET RIGHT AWAY
GET THE CAR

RITZ-CARLTON, CENTRAL PARK SOUTH
YEAH, YA GOTTA KNOW YOUR ENEMY. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO BRING HIM DOWN. BECAUSE, AFTER ALL, IT AIN'T LIKE HE'S ALL POWERFUL.
RIGHT?
BLESS THIS FOOD, AND THIS TABLE YOU HAVE SET BEFORE ME...
I AM YOUR DEVOTED SERVANT... LET IT NOURISH AND STRENGTHEN ME SO THAT I MAY DO YOUR GOOD WORKS...
I PRAY THIS IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT...
AMEN
BIBLE
'THEN A MIGHTY ANGEL PICKED UP A BOULDER THE SIZE OF A LARGE MILLSTONE AND THREW IT INTO THE SEA, AND SAID: WITH SUCH VIOLENCE THE GREAT CITY OF BABYLON WILL BE THROWN DOWN, NEVER TO BE FOUND AGAIN.' REVELATION, 18·21

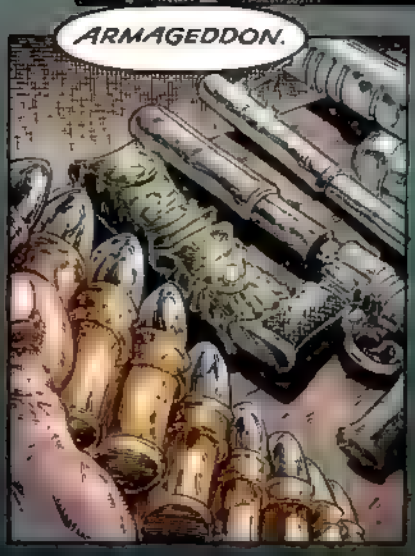
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

THANKS FOR COMING, JASON.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO YOUR PROBLEMS, ANTONIO... AND I'M AFRAID I CAN'T HELP YOU THIS TIME.
I NEED TO KNOW WHO'S AFTER ME. MY WHOLE FRIGGIN' WORLD'S CRASHIN' DOWN AROUND MY EARS AND I CAN'T STOP IT.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW *WHY* IT'S HAPPENING!
THE PEOPLE AFTER YOU ARE VERY POWER-FUL.

NOT YOU, TOO!
GODAMMIT, WHO *ARE* THEY? WHAT THE HELL DID I *DO* TO THEM?!!
THESE PEOPLE HAVE FRIENDS IN VERY HIGH PLACES NO ONE STOPS THEM. NO ONE GETS IN THEIR WAY... AND NO ONE... I MEAN *NO* ONE... ESCAPES THEIR WRATH.
YOU ABUSED ONE OF THEIR PRIZED PLAY-THINGS, ANTONIO. A LITTLE ITEM KNOWN AS *OVERTKILL*.
Oh--
SHIT..

ALRIGHT, FELLAS... THESE ARE ALL THE BIG GUNS WE GOT LEFT.

GET ARMED TO THE TEETH.. I'M TALKIN' LOADED FOR ALL OUT WAR...
... AND NOT JUST ANY WAR...


ARMAGEDDON.

SEE... WE WENT AND PISSED OFF GOD, BOYS AND GIRLS

WE SPENT HIS MONEY NOW HE'S COME TO COLLECT, WITH INTEREST... AND HIS CURRENCY--
-- IS BLOOD!

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY:
THERE'S NOTHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN A MAN WITH NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.

BlahBlahBlah

BlahBlahBlah_64
w/terry fitzgerald
tdfitz@aol.com

Konnichi wa from Tokyo, Japan. Todd and I are over here for five days of paper, magazine and TV interviews for the opening of the "Spawn" movie here in Japan. The first screening is still 2-3 weeks away, but the buzz around the city is deafening. Spawn-mania has hit the shores in the country of the rising sun and doesn't look like it's going to subside any time soon.

The Spawn translated comic here outsells the closest American competitor two to one. Batman and Superman are being outsold four to six to one. The Spawn toy collectors club new membership has grown to seven times the initial projected number. The movie soundtrack is halfway to a gold record in just three weeks. The animated video is sold-out all around Tokyo...blah, blah, blah. Everyone here is excited to see what 1998 has in store for the Spawn empire Japan-style.

Last night Todd had a "surprise" autograph session at Tower Records in Shibuya, a suburb of Tokyo. Upon arrival to the store management informed us that over 50 people had slept outside overnight in the 30°F weather to see Todd. The scheduled hour long signing turned into a four hour session as Todd stayed to sign for all who showed up. The cutest scene was when Todd signed toys for two teenage school girls who were shaking and highly excitable (Maybe they thought he was Brad Pitt or someone else...)

Today are interviews with MTV Japan, CNN Headline News etc. Tomorrow afternoon we are going to visit Madhouse, the animation company that is working on the second set of six animated Spawn episodes. Expect to see these on the air sometime April or May. The animation is far superior to the first season's and hopefully everyone will notice as well.

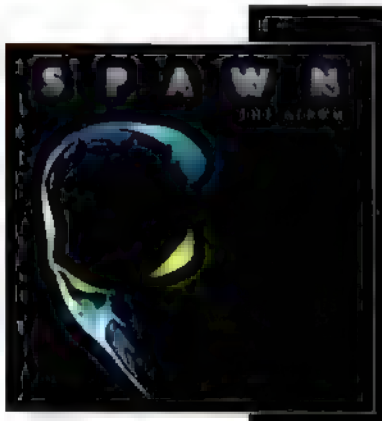
The Spawn PlayStation game is selling really well at home in the U.S. First month of sales have reached over 163,000 copies with 66,000 copies sold the week of Christmas alone. Thanks to all who purchased a copy. We just signed a deal with Hudson here in Japan to release the game here. I had a dozen or so fans last night at Tower ask me about its release. Every kid in Japan has a PlayStation with over 60 million decks sold. An amazing number!

So what's with the CD cover on this page? I'd like to thank everyone who picked up one, (or all three), of the different covered soundtracks from the movie. We have been on the Billboard 200 charts for 22 weeks, presently at the number 132 slot ("Batman and Robin" soundtrack is off the chart!) Sales have been strong and we were certified platinum, 1,000,000 sales, this month. Remember that the sweepstakes that runs in association with the "Santa Spawn" cover, does not end until the end of February, so please enter. The prizes are valued at over $50,000 and include a DVD player signed videos, toys, movie posters, etc. Also a special thank you to all of the readers of "Rolling Stone" magazine who voted us the Best Soundtrack of 1997. That specific award means more to me than anything else. Thanks guys.

For those of you electronic gearheads like me who own a DVD player please note that the Marilyn Manson video for "Long Hard Road Out of Hell" is secretly hidden in the Spawn movie DVD. Click to the soundtrack info section, highlight Marilyn Manson, then using the left/right buttons, click off screen to the secret area. This way you can freeze frame Marilyn in all his glory. God I love that man. (sorry Mom)

Until next month when I'll have word from New York Toy Fair 1998, keep the flavor alive, drink lots of Sake, and say "hi" to the colone for me.

best, terry fitzgerald



Regular Cover

First Variant Cover

Second Variant Cover

Curse Words
P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228
www.spawn.com

Dear Mr McFarlane,

Thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to read my letter I called earlier about an internship and the lady I talked to said that your company did not offer internships but I could submit a letter I would like to intern at your studios because I hope one day to be a comic book artist and find that you are the most influential in that field. I am attending the College of Visual Arts in St. Paul Minnesota for the reason of becoming a comic book artist after I graduate. I would like to intern at your studios in the summer of '99 during my jun or year when I have gained enough knowledge in art as a who e to be able to add now to my knowledge of the specific field of comic books

I first got interested in comics the day I saw an article in the local newspaper about the death of Superman and the artist who drew that specific comic, Dan Jurgens. He also came and spoke at my high school in the on y drawing class they offered a year before I took the class. The small sample of his artwork in this article of Lois Lane holding a dead Superman reminded me of a read along book I had when I was little. I went to the library the next day and I borrowed a few different comics and what I saw in there impressed me. I started to doodle super heroes everywhere. Then my friend got me interested in the X-Men. I bought as many issues of the X-Men that I could afford. I was impressed with Jim Lee s exceptional work and endeavored to be like h m. As the years progressed, I found that the stories and artwork did not captivate me as they did when I first started. So I gave them all away. I started to get interested in your creation Spawn about two years ago, when I saw the highly detailed thirteen inch Angela at a local store. I bought her and soon after started buying your comic book. I like the edge you give a l the characters in your comic book especially Spawn. I find your and Mr. Capullo's penciling skills quite exceptional. I like how both of you can draw different people, not just the same person with a different hair color or eye color over and over again like a great deal of artists out there now. That was one of the first things that impressed me when I first started buying Spawn. In total truth I love the Spawn comic book and Curse of the Spawn comic book

I would like to thank you again for reading my letter and considering my request

Christina Daoud
Edina, Minnesota

Currently, we don't offer any intern programs with my studios. You said you were looking forward to 1999 and the structure of my companies might change in the next year or two as they have continued to change over that last five years. Potentially, we may decide to set up a program where we can help those around us in the community that we live in with the local artists and see whether there is growth enough to offer it to other states.

I also agree with you that Greg Capullo has a very wide range of facial expressions, body language and body type that lends to the believability of each one of these characters being separate from themselves. His characters don't blur and have a tendency to look like each other like a host of other artists' characters do. One of the first things that drew me to Greg's work early on was his ability to have ten characters standing next to each other and all have a distinctive look in and of themselves. On the Curse book, Dwayne Turner also has that same skill in being able to take any idea and any kind of person whether they are male or female, young or old, good or evil and be able to give them the proper mix so they convey the essence of whatever the writer is trying to get across in the stories. In the future if we do any other projects outside the mainstream of the two books we have coming out monthly, I'll also be looking for artists that have that same skill level and hope that the final product will warrant their inclusion.

Dear Curse Words,

I enjoyed issues #9-11, revealing the origin of Angela but you missed the obvious answer to the question of what Deurges is. This is, even as the spirits of the miscellaneous women were assembled throughout time and space to consolidate into the Heaven-sent champion Angela, the forces of Hell were likewise trying to create an evil, mirror image of her, her karmic opposite, in full reverse overdrive, taking the souls of the male oppressors of her previous incarnations to likewise unite into a golem-like being of purest evil, augmented by the vast mystical energies installed in Deurges by the kings of the various hells. This was a natural consequence of the order of things, every yin having to have its yang, etc.

Cogliostro and other wizards opposed to the forces of darkness somehow learned of this dark genesis of Deurges and rather than let him attack Angela and Heaven outright, somehow intercepted his endowment of dark powers and placed wards to entrap him in some extra-dimensional pocket niche of space-time which he eventually overcame to become a fully solid and real being. Before that he haunted Angela throughout space and time using his enormous mystical powers of long-range clairvoyance and telepresence. An ongoing snafu with this story line is that such an incredibly powerful incarnation of pure evil won t be satisfied being a servant of any king of Hell for long; he was only intended as a kind of a doomsday weapon against Heaven by them a golem, not as the sentient being he became.

I also enjoyed issues 13 and 14 of Curse of the Spawn, highlighting the Jessica Priest character. However, I would not say she's possessed of a warrior-berserker spirit so much as her being possessed of an advanced bipolar disorder. Half of her brain carries all violent impulses to their nth degree while the other half is fixated on being the perfect housewife and singing ditties from old songs and commercials. She also seems to have a minor mutation that enables her to manifest a degree of super strength for short periods when her adrenaline is pumping. Possibly she has a multiple personality disorder as well.

An issue that never came up is how Arno and Bergregor were able to control the feral-variants at all. They might have gene-engineered a specific weakness in them so that when they got near them they smelled a synthetic pheromone, a scent/perfume that they sprayed on themselves which made them completely obedient to them. They apparently intended to pollute the Earth's upper atmosphere with that Heat-16 artificial virus re-genetic agent to convert all mankind into variations of the Ferals, all of which would have likewise been subservient to their pheromone control.

A recommendation here - you have an opportunity for a great new character in the Spawn universe, namely 'Obersmith Feral'. After Priest burned out the Medlab 005 that character could escape and making his way back to the area where Ehrlich Westerlin ran a Uranium pit mine with slave labor, quite by accident he discovers that exposure to the Uranium restores his sanity and stabilizes his rampant metabolism s constant hunger. He eventually works the Uranium pit mine for himself since he s apparently immune to the adverse effects of the hard radiation and re-establishes contact with humanity to eventually amass enormous wealth and power by gradually smuggling out refined Uranium-235 to the buyers that Obersmith discovers from the computer set-up left behind by the deceased Westerlin.

Eventually, wishing to interact with people as he once did, he might kidnap the Violator since it s apparent that like Obersmith, the Violator is a demon-

ic monstrosity However unlike h m he can shape-shift into a semblance of humanity and he wants that ability as well He might also want vengeance against Jason and Jessica for getting him into his situation in the first place and h s international meddlings with terrorists trying to assemble nuclear bombs, might run h m afoul of Spawn as well In any event, he's too interest ing a character to simply discard

Best Regards
Bob Schre b Jr
Toms R ver, New Jersey

That was a very impressive analysis of the issues that you read and although I can't completely agree with all of them, it s interesting to hear these kind of in depth opinions from the readers. Ultimately, when trying to put a story together, you don't necessarily want to give every single answer away right off the bat in hopes of being able to address some of the situations later by picking up a loose thread and moving it forward There is a fine line to walk to ensure you don't make the story so ambiguous that it doesn't provoke any thoughts to those who have spent their hard-earned cash. I'm glad this one got the ol' brain juices flowing. Let us know what you think of our other story arcs.

nfernal Greet ngs Curse Words
I once tried to co lect com c books as a ch ld and now that I am an adult I just can t seem to draw myself away from The Curse I missed being ab e to start from #1 with the orig na series While browsing through my local book/cigarette store I couldn t he p but to be drawn to the killer art of The Curse From #1 up to #13 I've been mesmerized w th the detail and crafts manship put into each book
By the way, I caught the animated series on HBO and it blew me away. The movie was pretty decent but I have yet to see the director's cut I can't wait to catch the next series of animated Spawn
Now I can finally stop rambling and get to some questions for you On your toy line I picked up a gold Violator and it came with a comic book I haven t been ab e to find another gold Violator anywhere for 40 miles around I m persistent on keeping the one in the package but I d rea ly like to read the special ed tion book Can you help me?
One last inquiry for you and I ll let you get back to the masterpiece called Spawn In the first four books of the Curse it tells of the story of Daniel L anso wa king on endless fie ds of Death as the Anti-pope bears witness to a sea of ro ing death Abaddon Bune, the wretched, twisted, f ery Phlegethonyarre Will we see more of these characters? Soon?
Would you ever consider making Phlegethonyarre into like a deluxe figure? That would definitely be an awesome task Abaddon and/or the Anti pope would be cool as well I'm sure you and the crew at McFarlane toys are up for a cha enge Hey I'd pay up to $50 for a Phlegethonyarre action f gure

Thank you for your time
Chris Win and
Fond du Lac W sconsin

We're hoping to continue a nice long run on this book showcasing the various characters from both the current Spawn book and the potpourri of individuals scattered throughout the different story lines in the Curse book
In terms of transforming some of these people or creatures into plastic figurines, I m always looking to pull the best out of the bunch to make that transition As I think I've stated elsewhere, I don't go into any of the endeavors that contain Spawn with the idea of trying to directly link any of them together because I feel that limits you in terms of what you can accomplish at any given time. It s called the "tail wagging the dog" syndrome. I'm very selective about which ones I do, but we'll take your suggestions to heart.
As for your other question in trying to hunt down the comic contained in the gold violator figure, unfortunately, that was produced such a long time ago by my company that we have long since depleted our inventory All I can do is wish you luck and hope that your hunting goes better in the future I suggest you scan toy magazines for advertisements for the various retailers who sell out-of-stock toys, much like comic stores sell back issues of comics.

Dear Todd McFarlane
I am a really big fan of yours. Thanks to you I have started collect ng comic books again Also, your movie/cartoon movie was spectacular The graph cs and music were awesome I hope you can convince New Line to make the sequel R-rated In an R rated movie you can go all out but in a PG-13 mov e you have limitations on what you can and can t do That rea ly b tes because creatures l ke Spawn and Angela shou dn't have any l mitations In fact, if Spawn was real and those New Line guys told him he had limitations, he would probably laugh and spit in their faces and kill them Well enough of that
I have a suggestion for you S nce you are doing a mini-series on characters ke Angela and Jessica Priest, I think Deurges would be a good character n a mini-series. I would really like to learn more on this character s background ke where he came from and how he first became what he is now
Now for some questions Why is Deurges after Angela? W l you and your crew ever come to Kansas to sign autographs? My last and final question is, are you ever going to make any second print ngs of the Curse of the Spawn series? The reason I ask is because I can't seem to find Curse of the Spawn numbers 1-9 anywhere and I didn t start collecting until #10 Thank you for your time and patience I hope to get a response

Sincerely your fan
Cory Unruh
Sa ina Kansas

As we write this response to your letter, we are about a week away from giving the new pitch to New Line Cinema for the sequel So far they completely seem to be on board with the making the sequel R-rated which is the pitch I have in mind. The reason for me going "R" is not to create a bloodier, more violent or sexy show but to move it into a character driven film and therefore, rely much less on the special effects in the second go around. I'll let you know how the ideas were received by New Line and bring you up to date on the current activities as I receive them
In the meantime, be on the look out for the Spawn animated series which will be airing the beginning of May with some surprise new celebrity voices. Starting next month we will be doing some in depth behind-the-scenes interviews and show some of the visuals from the second series of Spawn The Animated Series right here in the comic book
A lot of the decisions on where we make appearances often happens a couple of months in advance. I'm sure somewhere along the lines in our tour across the United States, somebody from our Spawn ensemble is likely to show up in your beautiful state
As for your question about reprinting the Curse of the Spawn series: there are no plans to reprint them at this time. You may be able to locate some of the back issues at other comic shops near you and they may be willing to do a mail order if you can't visit them in person. The comic shop locator service phone number can help you find comic shops near you and that phone number is 1-888-COMIC BOOK. Good Luck!

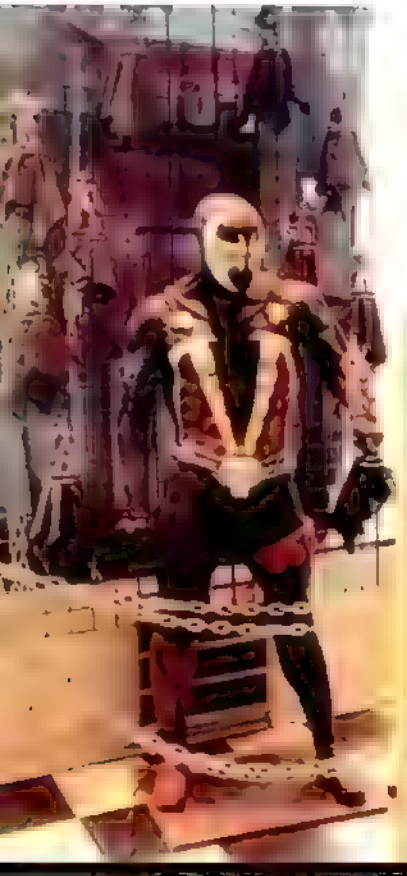
Dear Curse Words,
Hello. I am writ ng to give my opinions and thoughts for improvement for Curse of the Spawn and what I th nk about the ast issue I read My opinion about your spin-off of the Spawn world (on a scale of 1-10) 10 All right, I said what I have to say on the comic
Now here is what I think about the last issue I read It was spectacular I have to admit that #15 was da bomb. The story with Abd el was awesome
I have to ask three questions though Why weren't all the characters from both Total Chaos toy lines in the story? Why were there more characters used from Total Chaos toy line 2 than line 1? My last question is will there ever be an Abdiel action figure?

Sincerely
Jordan Yue

Everybody seems to be curious about the characters and when they'll jump to the plastic form. If you've read my other responses this month, I said that I like to pick and choose other characters in the situations that make the most sense in transferring them from one medium to the other So the choice of which characters from Total Chaos line made it into the Curse book was based on what made sense for the story and not who the most popular characters are. In the future, who knows which characters make the most sense for each line. We're always looking for new, original ideas while keeping an eye on what characters have appeared in comic books in the past. Thanks for your opinions

End Cap

Red Al Simmons



McFarlaneToys EndCap P.O. Box

27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228

McFToyClub@aol.com

Mail, Missives, and Messages

Richard Dorsey of Edmonton Alberta faxed us a letter about the new McFarlane Toys Collector's Club newsletter that he just received. He noted a rather dramatic increase in shipping rates to Canada (and overseas). What's up with that and why does it suddenly cost so much to order outside the U.S.? Well, it's all due to something called Dimension Weight.

Normally when sending things through the mail you get charged by how much the item weighs. But we've had TREMENDOUS difficulties with sending things through the mail. It has taken up to three MONTHS to clear customs and that was just an item going to Canada. It could also take up to two months to ship a parcel by boat overseas. All during that time people were waiting for their figures they had paid for, they were completely untraceable and we had no way of knowing when (or even if) they would arrive. So we switched over to World Mail which got things overnight to Amsterdam (or into Canada) and continued by regular mail from there. That sped things up and we still were only charged by what the parcels weighed.

But we received notice that World Mail (and others) were raising rates as of the first of the year and were now going to charge "Dimension" weight. That means the cost of a package is determined by its SIZE not actual mass. Thus a lightweight action figure in a big box cost the same to ship as if the box was filled with lead! We were NOT happy at the increase and had to scramble to determine how much the new rates would be for our various-sized boxes. If you will note we even had to put on stickers covering the old shipping rates since the flyers were already PRINTED when we were told about the rate increase.

We are trying to get quotes from a few different carriers and investigating different methods of shipment (like counting a pair of items as one large package). We will get the prices down but not for at least a month or so. With the old rates it meant we'd be losing $20 on each order shipping to Canada. We're going to get a system that is traceable, prompt (but not overnight) and reliable. We're doing everything we can to get the rate down and it should be reflected in the NEXT flyer.

John Evans of Monroe Connecticut sent fifteen letters, all asking different questions. Nice try, John, but it's not the QUANTITY that wins the prize. Among those many questions were: Where was the Red Al Simmons offered? And can we list the quantity per case of Spawn figures so readers will know which is the rare one? To answer your questions....1) The Al Simmons figure was sold at the Dragon Con in Atlanta, Wizard World in Chicago, and Comic-Con International in San Diego. It was ALSO sold through the toy club. 2) To start with, most McFarlane Toy cases are evenly packed with two or three of each figure in the case, depending on the series, with

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

no one figure rarer than any other figure. Then we tend to ROTATE the mix, so some cases coming in will have more of one figure and less of others but the next shipment will have a different figure shorted. Overall some figures are "rarer", but usually it's not the one you'd think from looking at the shelves. For instance, there are more Manga Spawn figures than anything else in the series, but it sells faster too. Ideally, if we've chosen and produced the quantity correctly, everything sells out at the same time so NOTHING is left on the shelves when the next assortment comes out.

Joshua Geltzer from aol.com asked why we don't have comics in with the figures anymore. Outside of the increased cost and waste of plastic, (because they'd have to be packaged differently) there are other concerns. Some of the characters aren't meant to BE comic characters, they're just fun toys to play with and collect. Other characters ARE going to be appearing in comics but not at the same time as the figures are on the shelves. For example, Viking Spawn and Vandalizer appeared in a special comic from FAN magazine and many Total Chaos figures showed up in last month's Curse of Spawn. Some of the figures are just more fun to play with if YOU make up their background and motives.

Jonathon Mynck from Hollywood Maryland asked why the movie figures don't have bio cards on the back like most of our other toys. In this case, we figured that many people would have SEEN the movie before buying the figures and so already know their character's history. Those that DON'T already see the movie might want to attend to find out more.

Sillypotty2001 e-mailed us asking how do we decide on where to draw the line in accordance to how gory we're willing to make a figure? That's an easy one: we don't. We don't tell our sculptors to tame anything down when making a monster or demon. To date, we've had only one figure that might have caused problems: Clown II was offered to foreign markets both with and without the disembodied head stuck on the arm. The American market is different in that some store managers may decide not to carry a line if they feel it's too gory or violent. Todd's reaction is to tell that store "okay, if that's how you feel about it" and then sell the toys to another chain store down the block. Therefore if you couldn't find some figures at one store (and it's their option not to carry anything they don't like), you may find it at another store.

Nia Nguyen from Cedar Rapids Iowa noticed that our figures now have peg holes in their feet and wondered if there were stands available like the one for the FAO Schwarz Vandalizer. At this time we don't have any stands made exclusively for our toys but we did try and make the holes the same size as some other companies. Most pre-existing stands already on the market should work. We may make some stands later but first we had to have the holes in the feet for a few series. Keep watching and we'll let you know what's going on.

Daryle Dickens from Elgin Illinois sent some dramatic photos of some of our figures, using them as fighting models for some photography experiments. Nice job, Daryle! Yes, the toys do make good subjects for some spooky shots. Mike Farr from Evans Georgia mailed us some photos of the customized Spawn figures he made including a very nice throne made from model skulls and clothespins. Unfortunately, his pictures are too blurry to be shown here, but he had some good ideas. And the winner of the FREE Green Cosmic Angela for best Spawn letter (and biggest diorama) is the sculpture made by Hugh Lorimer. He works in the Silver Snail comic store in Toronto Ontario and has provided Ron Van Leeuwen, the owner, with many displays in his spare time. Stop by to see the life-sized Spawn and let Hugh know how great it looks!

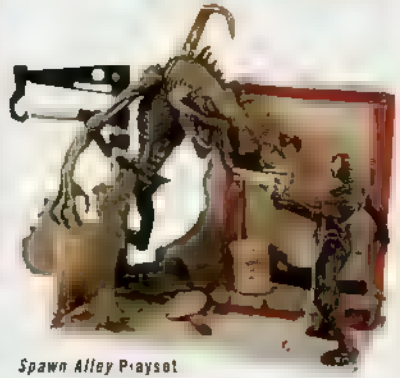
Image Spawn characters names and likenesses are TM and © 1997 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.

SPAWN

MOVIE PLAYSETS

The Graveyard Playset

The Final Battle Playset



Spawn Alley Playset

McFARLANE TOYS

SPAWN

MOVIE PLAYSETS

Three dramas from last summer's $60 million box office hit!

Available on toy shelves everywhere in January. www.spawn.com

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

Employee Search

The Todd McFarlane family of companies is looking for new employees in a variety of different professions. Are you an energetic and self-motivated individual who has a minimum of three years experience in any of the following areas and are willing to relocate?

Todd McFarlane Productions Inc. seeks:

LICENSING DIRECTOR replacement for head of licensing division, fax/mail resume and salary demands.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER addition to existing personnel, mail resume and portfolio.

McFarlane Toys seeks:

INTERNATIONAL SALESPERSON worldwide sales representative needed, prior experience a must, fax/mail resume and salary demands.

MARKETING STAFF addition to existing personnel, fax/mail resume and salary demands.

TOY FIGURE SCULPTOR addition to existing personnel, mail resume and photo portfolio.

STAFF ACCOUNTANT degree mandatory, addition to existing personnel, fax/mail resume and salary demands.

Todd McFarlane Entertainment Inc. seeks:

ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT new start up seeks interested "ground floor" addition, fax/mail resume and salary demands

Please fax your resume to *602-598-8766*, attention: Terry Fitzgerald, President. Or, mail to: *Employee Search, P.O. Box 27228, Tempe, AZ 85285.*

All resumes will be held in the strictest of confidence. Sculptors, please do not send any photos you would like returned. The Todd McFarlane family of corporations are located in *Los Angeles, CA, Phoenix, AZ, Detroit, MI and Bloomingdale, NJ.* All business entities are equal opportunity employers and each offer extensive benefit packages.

SPAWN

Upcoming Special Events Calendar for March 1998.

Orlando, Florida
MEGACON

Orlando Expo Center
Friday-Sunday, March 13-15

Join Al Simmons (aka Spawn), Greg Capullo, McFarlane Toys and the all-new Spawn Van at Florida's largest comic convention. Over 200 comic professionals will attend this excellent show. We'll have lots of giveaways and sneak peeks at our 1998 toy lines.

HOURS: Friday, 1PM-7PM; Saturday, 10AM-7PM; Sunday, 11AM-6PM. (Capullo signing Friday & Saturday only.) For more information, call Skyline Promotions at **(407) 599-0905.**

Montreal, Quebec
COMICFEST

Hotel Delta
Sunday, March 15

Come and preview McFarlane Toys' 1998 lines. All attendees wearing a Spawn hat or t-shirt will receive a special gift. For more information, call **Elwin Shapiro** at **(514) 482-7913.**

ADMISSION: $4.00 Cdn per person.

HOURS: Sunday, 10AM-5PM.

Big Bear Lake, California
BOARD AID™ 5 for LIFEbeat

Bear Mountain Resort
Sunday, March 15

We invite you to join us for Board AID™ 5, the original snowboarding/skateboarding/music benefit for LIFEbeat, the music industry fights AIDS organization. On-stage, check out The Offspring, Steel Pulse, The Specials, One Hit Wonder, and more. In addition, professional snowboarders such as Todd Richards and Shannon Dunn and skateboarders Tony Hawk and Andy Macdonald will perform demos. PLUS, meet Danny Miki, the inker on Spawn. For ticket info, merchandise and membership information, check out **http://www.boardaid.com** or call **(760) 722-7777, ext. 192.**

Phoenix, Arizona
PHOENIX SUNS GAME

America West Arena
Saturday, March 21

Al Simmons (aka Spawn) and the Spawn van will be set-up outside America West Arena around 5:30 PM, meeting fans and signing autographs prior to the Suns/SuperSonics game. Stop by the Spawn display and pick up some freebies and enter to win some great prizes!

Plano, Texas
DALLAS SCI-FI TOY SHOW

Plano Convention Center
Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29

Visit this show for the latest scoop on Spawn & McFarlane Toys' X-Files line, receive some freebies and have a chance to win an award-winning action figure.

HOURS: Saturday, 10AM-6PM; Sunday, 10AM-4PM.

For more information, call **(972) 578-0213** or visit **http://users.aol.com/toyshow.**

***ATTENTION SPRING BREAKERS*–Keep your eyes open in March for the Spawn Van in Daytona Beach, Florida and South Padre Island, Texas.**

TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
www.spawn.com

SPAWN

Book [5] five

Spawn Tradepaperback Book 5 *reprints issues 21-25 in one collected version for only $9.95. Now available at local comic book stores everywhere.*

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS

www.spawn.com

DarthScanner

DMT